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YOU DON'T SAY...

"I'm a female Trump. Whatever I do is wrong."

Rep. Beverly Boswell, R-Dare, on criticism she's faced recently from Democrats and from her own party.

THE COASTLAND TIMES, 3/26/18

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News Summary

Elections Board

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In its first meeting with all nine members Tuesday, the new State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement had only one major disagreement. Republicans on the board opposed an effort by Democrats to reject a staffer for U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows from continuing to serve on the Cleveland County Board of Elections.

Joshua Malcolm, a Democrat who served on the previous State Board of Elections, cited past experiences with Wayne King's work leading the Cleveland County board, but he didn't offer specifics. "The citizens of Cleveland County would best be served by Mr. King not being on the Board of Elections," Malcolm said. He did not mention King's role on Meadows' staff, which hasn't conflicted with the elections board role because King does not work for the congressman's campaign. In 2014, King was criticized by the local NAACP over a board decision to merge precincts, which the NAACP argued would make it harder for people to vote, according to a Charlotte Observer report at the time.

King was the N.C. Republican Party's first choice to serve on the Cleveland board, and in nearly every other county, the state elections board appointed the top two choices from each of the two major political parties. Republicans on the board objected to Malcolm's proposal to appoint the GOP's second and third choice candidates instead of King. "I know of no reasons to justify skipping his name," said John Lewis. "This is a partisan motion to remove Mr. King from the board, and let's just be honest about that." Damon Circosta, the unaffiliated board member appointed by Gov. Roy Cooper, joined with Democrats in a 5-4 vote that prevented King's appointment. NCGOP executive director Dallas Woodhouse took to Twitter to blast Circosta. "So much for that talk of bipartisanship," Woodhouse tweeted. "You said you were not an automatic vote for Democrats. Today you were."

In other action Tuesday, Cooper named Malcolm as vice-chair of the elections and ethics board and Republican Ken Raymond as the board's secretary. The board also discussed the status of elections disputes that had been sent to Wake County Superior Court while the state board was vacant during a lawsuit. According to board attorney Josh Lawson, only one case -- from Bertie County -- remains pending in Superior Court, and judges likely won't take action now that a county board has enough members to handle the case. "My view is that will likely revert back down for action at the county level," Lawson said. The state board also clarified the chair positions for county boards as a result of the delay in naming new board members -- each county board will be chaired by a Democrat until July 1, and will then be chaired by a Republican for the following year, following a provision in state law. County boards are being asked to swear in members and elect a chair by April 2.

Agency executive director Kim Strach gave board members an update on what the federal omnibus spending bill will mean for the agency. The bill includes \$380 million for election improvements including security measures, and North Carolina will get an estimated \$10 million, "which could not come at a better time," Strach said. She said agency staff will develop a proposal for how to spend the money once the exact amount is known, and the board will review the plan. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 3/28/18)

Green Party

North Carolina added the Green Party to its official political parties Tuesday, potentially giving voters more options this fall. The state elections board voted unanimously to certify the North Carolina Green Party, whose candidates can now automatically be on state ballots through at least 2020. It joins North Carolina's other official parties -- Democratic, Republican and Libertarian -- for federal, state and local offices. The decision also means voters can now officially register with the Green Party, which promotes a pro-environment platform that extends to universal health care, renewable

energy, equal rights and opposition to war. State Green Party membership, counted internally by the party, is currently in the hundreds, with five regional chapters.

Party members will gather through a convention to nominate candidates for what is likely to be a limited number of seats in November, Green Party co-chairwoman Jan Martell said. Those candidates must be provided to state officials by July 1, according to state law. "It's going to be a quantum leap for us," Martell said in an interview. "It gives us the credibility that we need to be recognized as legitimate players in the political process in this state." (Gary D. Robertson, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 3/27/18)

Bus Plan

When most people think of mass transit, they envision a city bus or perhaps a light-rail line like the one being planned between Chapel Hill and Durham. But the N.C. Department of Transportation has put out a long-range plan for transit in North Carolina that calls for public bus lines reaching out into rural parts of the state. The centerpiece of the plan is a "connected statewide network" that would enable people to take transit from small towns to cities and from one metro area to another.

The state's current transit system, run by about 100 local government and non-profit agencies, was shaped in large part by an earlier NCDOT plan crafted in the mid-1990s by the Transit 2001 Commission. With financial help from the state, those local transit agencies provided 74 million trips in 2016, more than double the number when the commission was appointed in 1995. "With the Transit 2001 Commission, we thought transit was going to be, a lot of it, local, and we would base it on county systems," said Ritchey, who once headed the Triangle Transit Authority, the regional agency now known as GoTriangle. "What we've really found is that our county boundaries now are barriers and our focus on county systems alone has been one of our challenges."

GoTriangle will, in time, extend its reach beyond the three-county Triangle region, into Johnston, Chatham and perhaps Granville counties as demand for transit grows, said John Tallmadge, the agency's director of regional services. But what about buses to more distant destinations, such as Roxboro or Henderson, as the NCDOT strategic plan envisions? "One of the questions is 'Are we ready for all these corridors today?', and I think the answer is probably not," Tallmadge said. "But this is intended to be a strategic plan that goes out 20 or 30 years."

A final version of the NCDOT plan, including recommendations for bringing it about, will be released later this year. While the state provides some funding for mass transit, it will be up to the local transit agencies to build the network, bit by bit, over time. One outstanding question is how they will pay for it. The state will provide about \$93 million for transit this year, including \$25 million to help extend the Lynx light rail system in Charlotte. But the legislature's funding for the maintenance assistance program, a key source of support for local transit agencies, peaked in 2011 at \$33.6 million and has remained at \$32.5 million the last two years.

State law also limits how much NCDOT can spend on transit construction. Under the formula for allocating transportation dollars, established by the General Assembly in 2013, no more than 6 percent is available for transit, and even then must be shared with ferries, airports and projects for bicycles and pedestrians. (Richard Stradling, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

GenX Report

The Cape Fear Public Utility Authority has submitted its final report to the Environmental Review Commission, per the requirements of House Bill 56. That legislation appropriated funds to CFPUA and the University of North Carolina Wilmington to study which treatment techniques would remove GenX and other contaminants from the public water supply. Friday's report to the Environmental Review Commission summarizes the action that UNCW and CFPUA have taken on water quality and it includes progress on a pilot study of water treatment technologies. The report says granular activated carbon filter media and ion exchange resin are currently in pilot scale testing.

Researchers excluded reverse osmosis/nanofiltration because of much higher life-cycle cost and potential challenges related to disposal of the concentrate. Officials say they expect to complete the pilot study this spring. The CFPUA report also says that GenX represents a small percentage of the 20 different per-fluorinated, unregulated compounds discovered through testing at Wilmington's Sweeney Water Plant. (Vince Winkel, WHQR RADIO, 3/27/18)

School Protections

The National Guard has been called on over the years to restore the peace after natural disasters and other emergencies, but few North Carolina school board members think it's time to deploy soldiers at schools as a security measure. Only 18 percent of the 292 school board members who took a recent N.C. School Boards Association survey said they'd support deploying the National Guard as a school safety option. School board members were far more supportive of other ideas in the survey, such as increasing funding for mental health services, school counselors and school resource officers.

"School districts, for the most part, focus on educating children and naturally providing safety measures for them," said Minnie Forte-Brown, president of the NCSBA board of directors and a member of the Durham school board. "We weren't surprised at all there was not as much consensus for bringing in the National Guard and arming teachers."

Wake County school board vice chairman Jim Martin said he was surprised to see the question about the National Guard when he took the survey. "It's not a strategy that would even come across my radar screen," he said. "I believe it would increase fear and not bring safety."

Some state lawmakers have also recently proposed deploying the National Guard to provide emergency help for the state's critically understaffed prisons. The North Carolina National Guard is an all-volunteer force of nearly 12,000 soldiers and airmen. Members work for the Guard part-time, serving 39 days a year. (T. Keung Hui, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

Twitter Poll

At least one Republican is campaigning for votes in a liberal group's March Madness-style Twitter contest to name the "worst politicians in North Carolina." Progress NC Action has been conducting the poll on Twitter, starting with a field of dozens of Republicans and two Democrats (Sen. Joel Ford, D-Mecklenburg, and Rep. Duane Hall, D-Wake).

N.C. Republican Party executive director Dallas Woodhouse was eager to beat U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis and move into the contest's "Foul Four." "Friends: I really need your help," Woodhouse wrote on Facebook. "The left has me in the final 8 for worst politico in NC. I am up against Thom Tillis. There is no way he is meaner, nastier to democrats than me. It is just not possible. If you agree, I ask you your vote asap!!! ... You must show I.D. and NO SUNDAY VOTING!!" Woodhouse ultimately defeated Tillis with 72 percent of the vote and now faces U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows in the next round. Senate leader Phil Berger and U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx are in the other match-up. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 3/28/18)

Cambridge Analytica

New National Security Adviser John Bolton's super-PAC worked with British data mining firm Cambridge Analytica on targeted ads supporting Republican Thom Tillis in his 2014 U.S. Senate campaign. Cambridge Analytica, which has been roundly criticized for its unauthorized use of personal data of some 50 million Facebook users, designed five versions of the same ad featuring Bolton that tailored toward different personality types.

The ads ran on satellite television providers, which have the technology to allow advertisers to target individual subscribers. Cambridge Analytica then used its psychographic profiling to decide which ad should go to a given viewer. More optimistic, agreeable people saw a more upbeat version of the ad, while more fearful people were shown a more frightening version.

"It gives you an edge in increasing the probability that voters would pay attention to your message," Tillis strategist Paul Shumaker said in a 2015 Bloomberg article.

Former Cambridge Analytica employee and whistleblower Christopher Wylie told CNN recently that the goal of the super-PAC was to raise the profile of national security as a campaign issue in Tillis' hard-fought race against Democratic U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, as well as in two other Senate races that year. Tillis narrowly defeated Hagan in what became the most expensive Senate race in the nation, with outside money paying for more than 80 percent of the ads, which were prolific in number and their negative tone.

"One of the things that the Bolton PAC was interested in is, is that you can lobby in Washington, you can buy expensive dinners, you can put pressure on, you know, senators and congressmen all you want. But really, at the end of the day, what talks is voters, right?" Wylie said. "And if you can rile up voters and make them more militaristic, you don't need to lobby senators because the lobbying bubbles up." The Bolton ad campaign is featured on the Cambridge Analytica website as one of the firm's success stories, as is the Tillis campaign in general.

Shumaker declined to comment Tuesday on Bloomberg story, which also named a foreign national who worked for Cambridge Analytica in North Carolina during the Tillis campaign.

The Tillis campaign last weekend strongly denied a report by NBC News that foreign nationals worked for the campaign in Raleigh. Tim Glister, a British strategist with Cambridge Analytica, talked in the 2015 article about coming to North Carolina to help the North Carolina Republican Party support the Tillis campaign. The state Republican Party also denied employing foreign nationals during the 2014 campaign season, but officials acknowledged that the party doesn't keep track of the nationality of people working for its vendors. (Laura Leslie, WRAL NEWS, 3/27/18)

Mission Health Deal

Gov. Roy Cooper called for a commitment Tuesday to provide health care to the Medicaid and indigent populations in light of a proposed deal that may see Mission Health acquired by a Nashville-based for-profit healthcare company. Cooper, speaking at a job showcase event for area students held at Mission's SECU Cancer Center, said state leaders hope a proposed deal with HCA Healthcare Inc. will be "positive." However, he said questions remain about what the acquisition ultimately would mean for the care of some of the region's poorest residents. "We want this to be a positive step for Western North Carolina," he said. "The people at Mission here believe that it is but we know that this is a period of time where this relationship can be examined and questions can be asked about it. The kind of relationship they have can be determined over the next few weeks and months. We look forward to asking those questions and making sure health care in Western North Carolina is the best it can be."

Mission said last week its board voted unanimously to execute a letter of intent to explore being acquired by HCA. The deal would place the WNC-based nonprofit community hospital group under HCA's umbrella, joining a company which has 177 hospitals and 119 surgery centers in 20 states in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. It would be the company's only hospital system in North Carolina. The deal is subject to the negotiation of a definitive agreement and applicable regulatory approval. If it meets approval of all sides, it is believed Mission's seven-hospital system could join HCA sometime later this year.

Asked about his concerns with the proposed deal, Cooper said, "you want to make sure there's still competition in the healthcare field and that we don't have too much of a taking over of a market." (Dillon Davis, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 3/27/18)

Dem Candidates

Rep. George Cleveland, R-Onslow, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Brown, R-Onslow, have run unopposed in the general election for the last five election cycles. But this November, each

incumbent will face a Democratic challenger -- with Ike Johnson, a retired Marine Corps officer, and Joe Webb, a former high school teacher, competing for NC House District 14 and NC Senate District 6, respectively. During this mid-term election season, there's been an increase in confidence among state Democratic candidates who live in traditionally conservative, rural areas, said Wayne Goodwin, chairman of the state's Democratic Party.

"We have seen in states all across this country, in the last few months, Democrats that have run and won in districts where either a Democrat had never won or it had been a long time since a Democrat had even done very well -- significant changes from red to blue in states like Virginia, and Alabama, and Kentucky, and Oklahoma and other states," Goodwin said. "So, that has excited North Carolina Democrats in rural and Eastern North Carolina to see how Democrats in other parts of the country have fared."

Rep. George Cleveland, R-Onslow, has held the District 14 seat since 2005. Ike Johnson, a former Marine Corps officer, is the first Democrat to challenge Cleveland since 2006. In the last mid-term election cycle, a quarter of all state legislative districts lacked a Democratic candidate. But this year, the party has launched a more than \$2 million campaign to break Republican state lawmakers' supermajority, recruiting candidates to run in all 170 state legislative districts. "We also have more precincts organized than we've had in a long time," Goodwin said. "It's not just the candidates that are turning out in droves, we have party activists and supporters that are turning out in droves." (Valerie Crowder, PUBLIC RADIO EAST, 3/27/18)

Early Voting

Roanoke Rapids not having an early voting site could affect the outcome of the election, according to one local leader running for re-election this year. Halifax County Board of Commissioners Chairman Vernon Bryant said he was disappointed when the county's Board of Elections announced its one-stop voting plan and the plan failed to include an early voting site in Roanoke Rapids. "I'm very disappointed we do not have an early voting site in the largest town in Halifax County," Bryant said. "I think it's a disservice to Littleton and Lake Gaston. They have to go to Halifax Community College, Halifax, Scotland Neck or Enfield to vote early. I don't think that's good."

Bryant is not alone in his feelings about the early voting site. Enfield Chief of Police Tyree Davis, who is running for Halifax County Sheriff, said he believes the entire county should be getting much better early voting coverage. "Even though the law only requires one early voting location in the county, personally, I would like an early voting location in every community," Davis said. Davis, however, is holding back any judgment or how his campaign could be affected by the lack of an early voting site in Roanoke Rapids. "Right now there is no way of knowing if not having a location in Roanoke Rapids will impact my campaign," Davis said. "I have to wait until the election is over and then analyze the data. Not having a location in Roanoke Rapids will not affect the way I campaign."

Roanoke Rapids city leaders previously told The Daily Herald they tried to find a location to hold early voting in the city. Originally the Resource Center, located at the intersection of West 3rd and Jackson streets, was to serve as the location but the temporary occupancy of the space by NC Works made that impossible. City Manager Joseph Scherer said the city then offered the Board of Elections the Roanoke Rapids Public Library, which will serve as a precinct location on Election Day, but elections board Director Kristin Scott said the location was unacceptable due to its lack of space and the availability of parking. The Kirkwood Adams Community Center space, traditionally used on Election Day, was also not enough space, Scott said.

The board unanimously adopted this primary season's one-stop voting plan on March 6. Following the unanimous adoption of the plan, board member Jane Watson resigned from the board, meaning no business can be done by the board that requires voting, including amending the one-stop plan. Scott previously reported unless the state Board of Elections reconstitutes the Halifax County Board to the now-mandated four members and the new county board meets prior to April 19, the plan will not be altered to add a Roanoke Rapids location. (Roger Bell, THE (Roanoke Rapids) DAILY HERALD, 3/27/18)

Population Change

Mecklenburg County added 19,600 people in the year ending June 30, 2017. Only Wake added more, according to newly released U.S. Census Bureau data. The data -- population estimates from July 2016 to July 2017 -- show Mecklenburg gained about 54 people a day. The county is now home to 1,076,800, about 4,600 more than Wake. But four surrounding counties outpaced Mecklenburg. York and Lancaster counties in South Carolina and Cabarrus and Union counties in North Carolina all grew faster.

Other highlights from the data:

- The three fastest-growing counties in the Carolinas border the coast: Pender, Brunswick and Horry County, S.C.
- Three counties grew by 10,000 people or more: Wake, Mecklenburg and Horry County, S.C.
- 52 of the 146 counties in the Carolinas lost people. Cumberland County, N.C. lost the most -- nearly 1,000 people.

(Gavin Off, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

WNC Air

Air quality in Western North Carolina continues to improve and provide clear summer days, perfect for enjoying those sprawling mountain views. Drops in emissions due to changes in the energy sector, regulations and more continue to impact air quality in the state, according to state and regional officials who presented data at the annual State of Our Air Briefing and news conference at the Land of Sky Regional Council Office in Asheville. Bill Eaker, with Land of Sky, started off the meeting by marking 20 years since the organization launched its regional clean air campaign. He noted that since that time, air quality has improved by leaps and bounds in the mountains. And air quality continues to improve across the state, according to Mike Abraczinskas, director of the N.C. Division of Air Quality. He showed that over the decades, pollutants like carbon monoxide have continued to decline.

Pollutant data, including ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and fine particulates, have drastically improved since the late '90s and earlier. On the ground, he said, that translates into crystal clear summertime views in the mountains, which used to be the exception but are now the rule. One of the things he's most proud of, Abraczinskas said, is the precipitous drop in the past couple of decades of toxic air pollutants in the state, which has dropped by 100 million pounds per year. He showed that electric generation has changed drastically in the last 15 years. In 2002, coal provided 61 percent of the state's power, sharing that load with nuclear (32 percent), natural gas (2 percent) and other, including solar (5 percent).

In 2016 that breakdown showed coal receding and natural gas and solar gaining ground thanks to a number of factors, Abraczinskas said. In 2016, coal was down to 29 percent of the state's energy and natural gas was up to 30 percent, while nuclear was up to 33 percent. (Derek Lacey, THE (Hendersonville) TIMES-NEWS, 3/27/18)

Athlete Grad Rates

At one point during the most recent faculty athletics committee meeting at UNC-Chapel Hill, Christopher Faison, the coordinator of the university's Men of Color Engagement program, spoke with passion about the relatively low graduation rate for UNC's black male athletes. "It's the culture at this institution," said Faison, explaining a report released recently by the University of Southern California's Race and Equity Center that concluded UNC's black male athletes graduate at the lowest rate among any ACC school. "And it's not one office, it's not one department, but it is the fact that, as the author goes on to say, the caricature, over-stereotyping of black male athletes ... is the issue."

In an interview after the meeting last week, Faison, who is black, said the low graduation rate for

UNC's black male athletes are, overall, reflective of the "reality of being founded in 1793 in the South, and all the implications that come from that." Faison had just helped lead an informal, robust 30-minute discussion about the USC report, which was published earlier this month. The report, written by Shaun Harper, a USC professor who specializes in the study of race, higher education and college sports, focused on the graduation rates for black male athletes at the 65 schools that comprise the so-called Power 5 conferences.

According to the study, 43 percent of black male athletes who entered UNC between 2007 and 2010 graduated within six years -- the lowest rate in the ACC. Meanwhile, 90 percent of all UNC students who entered school during the same period graduated within six years. The 47-point difference in graduation rates was the largest in the ACC, and the third-largest nationally among Power 5 schools.

During the UNC Faculty Athletics Committee's discussion of the findings, Lissa Broome, a law professor and UNC's Faculty Athletics Representative, attributed some of the disparity to what she described as "old admissions practices." She cited data presented at a previous committee meeting, in February, that showed that UNC in recent years has admitted fewer academically at-risk athletes. "We've turned a corner on admissions," Broome said. "We just aren't seeing that in the graduation rates yet."

Overall, UNC's black male athlete graduation rate of 43 percent ranked 56th nationally, among the 65 Power 5 conference schools. Syracuse, which graduated 47 percent of its black male athletes, ranked 14th among 15 ACC schools and N.C. State, which graduated 51 percent of its black male athletes, ranked 13th in the ACC. N.C. State's black male athlete graduation rate fell nine percentage points from Harper's 2016 report. It was the fourth-largest decrease in the country, among Power 5 schools, and the largest among ACC schools. Notre Dame (86 percent) and Duke (81 percent) led the ACC in black male athlete graduation rates. At both schools, though, black male athletes still graduated at a rate less than that of all athletes. That was the case at every ACC school with the exception of Georgia Tech, where 70 percent of black male athletes graduated -- the same percentage of athletes, overall. (Andrew Carter, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

Opioid Emergency Visits

New data from emergency departments in North Carolina show the rate of opioid overdose-related visits continues to rise in the state, and the largest increases are in large central metropolitan areas. North Carolina was one of 10 states noted as having significant quarterly increases between July 2016 and September 2017 in a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Suspected opioid overdose ED visits in the state increased by 31 percent during that time. That contrasts with the rest of the Southeast, which experienced a collective rate increase of 14 percent during that time.

In contrast to reports which emphasize rural opioid use, the data suggest highly populated areas saw the greatest rate of opioid-related ED visits. Large metropolitan areas -- with more than 1 million people -- had a 54 percent increase. Meanwhile micropolitan areas -- burghs with populations between 10,000 and 50,000 people -- saw a smaller rate increase of 23.6 percent. "Increases in opioid overdoses varied by region and urbanization level, indicating a need for localized responses," CDC researchers concluded. (Taylor Knopf, NC HEALTH NEWS, 3/27/18)

Background Checks

Americans are more likely to support universal background checks for gun buyers than they are to say that the sky is blue, according to a new poll released Tuesday. Public Policy Polling, a Raleigh company that does both statewide and national polling and often polls on behalf of Democrats, is known for including wacky questions among the more serious topics in its polls. It's unclear how many of the people who said they don't actually think the sky is blue were joking, but Tuesday's results said 81 percent of Americans say the sky is blue and 11 percent say it's some other color. By comparison, 87 percent of Americans think there should be universal background checks for gun sales, the poll found, while 8 percent oppose the idea and 6 percent aren't sure. That 87 percent of

people who support universal background checks include 89 percent of Democrats, 85 percent of Republicans and 85 percent of independents. (Will Doran, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

Flytrap Poachers

While stealing wild Venus' flytrap could land an offender up to two years in prison, poaching of the carnivorous plant has continued in Southeastern North Carolina and only a handful of people have been charged with the crime since it became a felony in 2014. The Venus' flytrap, a plant at risk from coastal development and habitat loss, only grows in the wild within about 90 miles of Wilmington.

In 2014, state Rep. Ted Davis, R-New Hanover, introduced a bill that would up the ante for people stealing Venus' flytrap from their natural habitat -- a move partly in response to a massive poaching of plants at Wilmington's Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden in 2013. The legislation was signed into law in September of that year -- making poaching the vulnerable plants a felony punishable by up to 25 months in prison. The new law also doesn't restrict fines, while under previous laws offenders could've faced a \$10 to \$50 fine per plant stolen and no prison time.

Paul Simmons Jr. became the first person faced with felony charges for stealing Venus' flytrap, and in 2016 was sentenced to six to 17 months in prison for stealing 970 plants from the Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County. He was charged along with Malcolm Massey, Jimmy Wortham and Paul Simmons Sr.

Since then, only a couple of cases have been prosecuted since the law passed, and poaching is something that still happens, said Sgt. Brandon Dean with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "I think it's a deterrent, I really do," Dean said of the felony law. "But as far as telling our statistical numbers and such ... if we're patrolling hunting or fishing in the game lands and we see something suspicious, we don't turn a blind eye to it, but it's not something we actively seek."

Davis said he believes the law has been a big deterrent. Growing up in Wilmington, he was aware of the "uniqueness of the plant," and sought to protect it after he found out that stealing ginseng, a plant touted for its medicinal qualities that grows in Western North Carolina, was a felony. "If you face a felony conviction and jail time instead of a slap on the wrist ... I think that's quite a deterrent," he said. (Makenzie Holland, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 3/27/18)

Anesthesiologist Fight

A group of Charlotte anesthesiologists is suing Atrium Health after losing a contract with the hospital system, the latest twist in the battle between the health care providers. In a civil lawsuit filed late Monday in state court in Mecklenburg County, Southeast Anesthesiology Consultants accuses Atrium and a new vendor of stealing Southeast's trade secrets and using the information to launch the vendor that now has the contract. The suit comes after Atrium, formerly known as Carolinas HealthCare System, did not renew a contract this year with Southeast, which provides anesthesiologist for most of Atrium's Charlotte-area hospitals. Beginning July 1, Atrium is giving the work to Scope Anesthesia of North Carolina, which was created in January by Dr. Thomas Wherry, a consultant that Charlotte-based Atrium brought on last year.

The suit does not state how much the contract was worth, but Southeast is seeking more than \$25,000 in damages. Southeast says in its lawsuit it gave Wherry large amounts of confidential information after being told Wherry was a consultant tasked with evaluating how anesthesia care was being provided at Atrium facilities. Southeast says Wherry never identified himself as a competitor and was shocked when it learned it was being replaced by Wherry's company after serving Atrium for nearly 40 years.

In a statement, Atrium said the lawsuit's claims are without merit and that it remains committed to providing the highest quality patient care. Atrium also said it has been negotiating for 18 months with Mednax, the Florida-based, publicly traded company of which Southeast is an affiliate. "The Mednax CEO refused several contract provisions that would have ensured the safety of our patients

and communities we are privileged to serve," Atrium said. (Deon Roberts, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

Construction Boom

The sounds of high-pitched drills fill the welding department of Guilford Technical Community College on a recent morning. Sparks fly and sweat drips from the faces of students as they work to fuse metal pieces together for a class project. Some students like Sophomore Gwyneth Waite are close to graduation. That's a good thing because across the country, and in North Carolina, there's a shortage of skilled workers in the construction industry. Even though GTCC's welding program places 100 percent of its students in jobs after graduation, it's still not enough to close the gap that exists between North Carolina's current construction boom and lack of skilled workers.

GTCC manufacturing department chairman Don Ellington wants to help solve that problem. He said it's better for students to know about careers in the construction industry early in their life. "They're not exposed to them at a young age," he said. "When a lot of testing sort of became the norm for school instead of shop class, music class, they stopped learning how to do things, how to make things and started learning how to learn tests."

Ellington said society, parents and schools place a stronger emphasis on traditional four-year college degrees than shorter, more practical technical degrees.

The Associated General Contractors of America conducted a survey earlier this year of construction firms across the nation. The survey showed that nationally, 75 percent of respondents said they were expanding their headcount. However, in North Carolina, the numbers are much higher. According to Carolinas AGC, 78 percent of firms reported they're having a hard time filling salaried positions. For skilled trade positions, 93 percent said they were struggling. North Carolina is one of the states with the biggest need for skilled labor workers, according to Carolinas AGC Director of NC Government Relations and Building Division Betsy Bailey.

Bailey said there are a few reasons why the state is in such need. She cites the state's growing population and low unemployment rate as a couple of them. Bailey also said that the construction workforce has an image problem because people still think of the industry as dirty and with low-paying jobs, but that's not the case anymore. (Naomi Prioleau, WUNC RADIO, 3/27/18)

Attack Ads

Urging Republican voters to "drain the swamp," 9th District candidate Mark Harris is airing a new TV ad accusing opponent Robert Pittenger of being "allergic to the truth." The ad ratchets up the attacks in what has been considered one of the state's most competitive congressional primaries. Pittenger beat Harris by 134 votes in the 2016 primary, though a recent poll by the conservative Civitas Institute showed him with a 32 percentage point lead. A third Republican, newcomer Clarence Goins of Cumberland County, is also in the race. Harris' ad is the latest to invoke President Donald Trump in a campaign where both of the major candidates tout their support for the president. It comes a month after Pittenger released an ad that accused Harris of trying to "stop Trump" in 2016. (Jim Morrill, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

Deaths

The founder of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts died Saturday. John Ehle was 92 years old. Born in 1925 in Asheville, he became an accomplished author, finishing 11 novels and a half dozen nonfiction works. Ehle is also remembered as the special assistant to Gov. Terry Sanford who convinced the state to open a residential arts school. That idea, approved in the early 1960s, eventually became the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. The university would prove to be the training ground for thousands of young artists, including some who have achieved their industry's highest honors. Ehle's work earned him numerous awards, including an induction into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame. He's survived by his wife of 50 years, actress Rosemary Harris, and daughter, Jennifer Ehle, who herself is a graduate of UNCSCA. (WFDD RADIO, 3/27/18)

Water Transfer

To meet the demands of its ever-growing population, Pender County needs the ability to transfer millions of gallons of water from the Cape Fear River basin, according to county officials. The county's petition to the state to shift water from the Cape Fear River to three smaller rivers recently received support from not only county officials, but also environmental groups, whose members applauded the county's foresight to secure future water needs and protect the area's water resources.

"I know Pender County Utilities has been working many years on a very thoughtful, regional approach," said Bill Holman, North Carolina State Director of The Conservation Fund. "We all know these regional scale systems are more efficient. I commend the approach the county is taking. I think it's a great step." Holman was one of a handful of people to speak at a North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality-sponsored public hearing last week about the county's petition for what's called an interbasin transfer, or IBT, certificate.

An interbasin transfer is moving surface water from one river basin into another. Water transferred is not returned to its so-called source basin, which is, in this case, the Cape Fear. Transfers of 2 million gallons per day or more must, by law, be approved by the state's Environmental Management Commission. Pender County is requesting a certificate to transfer up to 14.5 million gallons per day from the Cape Fear River basin to the South River, Northeast Cape Fear River and New River basins. The transfer is being requested to meet projected water service demands in the county through 2045. (Trista Talton, COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE, 3/27/18)

Gas Pipeline

While heated economy-versus-environment arguments continue to rage over the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Piedmont Natural Gas is quietly laying another pipeline through the Twin Counties. The Duke Energy-owned company is replacing 27 miles of an existing natural gas pipeline with new 16-inch pipe. The pipeline begins in Halifax County, runs through Nash County near Whitakers and ends in Edgecombe County. The new pipeline will follow the existing pipeline's route, with the exception of a five-mile section in Weldon, which will be routed through a less-populated area. Construction on Phase 1 in Halifax County began last year. The work in Nash County or Phase 2 construction began earlier this year and Phase 3 in Edgecombe County will start in 2019.

Piedmont is a North Carolina corporation. It's an energy services company whose principal business is the distribution of natural gas to more than a million residential, commercial, industrial and power generation customers in portions of North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Piedmont provides a foundation for establishing a broader strategic natural gas infrastructure platform within Duke Energy to supplement and complement the previous natural gas pipeline investments and the natural gas business located in the Midwest. Duke Energy, a Fortune 125 company, completed the purchase of Piedmont in late 2016. (Lindell John Kay, ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM, 3/27/18)

Corvid Expansion

The engineering firm Corvid Technologies announced Tuesday it will spend \$28.9 million to expand its headquarters in Mooresville, where the company plans to add 367 new jobs over the next 12 years. In a statement released through Gov. Roy Cooper's office, Corvid said its project will include two three-story buildings, a data center for high-performance computing, a mechanics lab and a prototyping lab, all on Corvid's campus off Transco Road near Interstate 77.

In exchange for the local expansion, Corvid is receiving a state incentive package of just over \$9 million to be distributed over the next 12 years. The Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) was approved by the state's Economic Investment Committee earlier Tuesday, Cooper's office said. State payments to the company will only occur after performance verification by the Departments of Commerce and Revenue that the company has met its job creation and investment targets, Cooper's office added.

Corvid was acquired in 2015 by Chickasaw Nation Industries, and the Norman, Oklahoma-based

tribal enterprise also weighed moving the company's headquarters. The modeling and simulation firm for Pentagon clients including the Missile Defense Agency and Special Operations Command could receive up to \$13 million in North Carolina and local tax breaks and other benefits as it expands. Corvid's average wage of more than \$110,000 will be double the Iredell County average of nearly \$48,000. (Katherine Peralta, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER and THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 3/27/18)

ASU Email Scam

A California man was indicted by a federal grand jury in Charlotte for laundering more than \$1.9 million stolen from Appalachian State University, according to R. Andrew Murray, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. The 14-count indictment for Ho Shin Lee, 31, of Los Angeles, was unsealed March 23, following his arrest in California. John A. Strong, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Charlotte Division, joins Murray in making the March 23 announcement. According to allegations contained in the indictment, on or about Nov. 18, 2016, Lee applied to the Secretary of State of California to register Royce Hub Trading Inc. as a corporation in California, claiming that the corporation was in the business "general merchandise."

Lee represented himself to be the chief executive officer, secretary and chief financial officer of Royce Hub Trading. The indictment alleges that on or about Nov. 23, 2016, Lee opened a bank account with a financial institution in Los Angeles in the name of Royce Hub Trading Inc. Lee claimed to be president of Royce Hub Trading and was the sole account holder.

Court documents indicate that in 2016, ASU awarded a contract to Rodgers Builders to build a new health sciences building at the university. On or about Dec. 2, 2016, an employee at ASU received an email from an unidentified individual purporting to be D.M., an employee of Rodgers Builders. The email was sent from accounts@rogersbuildersinc.com, with the legitimate email address for Rodgers Builders being "rogersbuilders.com." The fraudulent email contained a direct deposit form and instructions to change Rodgers Builders' previously submitted banking information to Lee's newly opened bank account.

The indictment alleges that the ASU employee changed the payment information as directed by the fraudulent email. It also alleges that on or about Dec. 8, 2016, a payment of approximately \$1,959,925.02 intended for Rodgers Builders by ASU was directed to the bank account controlled by Lee. On or about Dec. 12, 2016, Lee received the fraud proceeds, and quickly transferred the funds through a series of financial transactions out of his bank account, according to the indictment. He did so knowing that the transactions were designed to conceal the nature, location, source, ownership and control of the fraud proceeds, the indictment states.

Lee is charged with fourteen counts of money laundering. The maximum penalty for each charge is 20 years in prison and a \$ 500,000 fine. The charges contained in the indictment are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt in a court of law, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. (WATAUGA DEMOCRAT, 3/27/18)

Family Medicine

More North Carolina medical students chose to enter the specialty of family medicine than ever before this year, according to a news release from the N.C. Academy of Family Physicians. As the 600 graduates of North Carolina medical schools recently "matched" with their residency programs, North Carolina had 92 students -- or 15.4 percent -- choose family medicine as their specialty of choice. "North Carolina is truly outpacing the country by any measure," Academy of Family Physicians President Dr. Tamioka Howell said. "We've made some right steps and our state's medical schools are headed in the right direction."

To foster greater participation in family medicine, the academy developed a "pipeline" program to help medical students pursue the practice. Over the past several years, the academy invested approximately \$2 million in programs designed to increase medical student interest in family medicine, partnering with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. Efforts

include scholarships, early medical school experiences in rural family medicine, policy and leadership rotations, mentoring experiences, and travel stipends to attend both state and national family medicine conferences. (NEWS RELEASE, 3/27/18)

Schools Security

Richmond County Schools are auditing their safety measures following last month's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The audit is being conducted by RCS Director of Operations Dennis Quick and the system's school resource officer team, with support from local law enforcement, to determine what steps can be taken to tighten security, according to Superintendent Cindy Goodman. "School safety has always been our highest priority," Goodman said. "Of course, following the Parkland shooting, we renewed our efforts to keep our schools as safe as possible."

Auditors will review security measures for the interior and exterior of school property, along with options for surveillance, alarm systems and key control, among others, according to Public Information Officer Briana Goins. The results will be applied to all system schools. Some security improvements suggested in the early phases of the audit are already being implemented. Doors that require visitors to "buzz in" to enter, coupled with cameras, have been installed at some schools -- with the goal of being system-wide -- and the lighting throughout the schools has been upgraded, according to Goins. (Gavin Stone, RICHMOND COUNTY DAILY JOURNAL, 3/27/18)

First Lady Visit

Students at Belville Elementary had a special visitor in class Tuesday: the First Lady of North Carolina. Kristin Cooper stopped by the Brunswick County school to learn about their high science scores and classroom technology. Belville's Parent Advisory Council, Parent Teacher Organization and administrators recently wrapped up a \$62,000-fundraising effort to buy 20 touch-screen smart boards, replacing the whiteboards in more than half the regular classrooms. "It's like a giant iPhone for them," said fifth-grade science teacher Michelle Ollis-Moore, who welcomed Cooper to her class Tuesday.

Cooper said she is on a mission to visit schools in each of the state's 100 counties; a visit to Columbus County was also scheduled Tuesday. She said she was happy to see Belville's investment in classroom technology and internet access. "We have been to a huge variety of schools, some recently renovated and modern, and some that are really remote (where) teacher retention is an issue," Cooper said. "We have a lot of children in this state that live in counties that do not have broadband. So as they get further down the road, they're going to be at a disadvantage."

Cooper said her school visits are a chance to learn about classroom innovations she can relate back to her husband, Gov. Roy Cooper, for policy ideas. "We'll take back what we've taken back from all schools, which is that public schools are one of our greatest resources and we should support them," she said. (Cammie Bellamy, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 3/27/18)

Charges Dropped

A charge of misdemeanor assault on a female against WCCB-TV morning news anchor Terrance Bates was dismissed on Monday in District Court in Mecklenburg County because his wife recanted her allegations. Jim White, the general manager for the station (Channel 18, Charlotte's The CW affiliate), said Bates will be back on the air Wednesday morning. He has not appeared on camera for the past three weeks. According to the dismissal notice, Tamara Bates met with a county prosecutor last Friday and said that she was untruthful in her report to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. She had initially filed a temporary restraining order against her husband but signed paperwork dismissing that order on March 13. (Theoden Janes, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

AWOL Soldier

Authorities are searching for an 82nd Airborne Division soldier who has been reported missing and AWOL. Sgt. Carl Seeman, 25, was reported missing to the Fayetteville Police Department by another soldier around 8:35 p.m. Sunday, according to Sgt. Shawn Strepay, a police spokesman. Seeman lives in a barracks building on Fort Bragg. Seeman is assigned to the 319th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. He did not report to formation on Monday and has been reported AWOL, a spokesman for the division said. Seeman's car, a silver Nissan Frontier, was found at the Walmart on Gillespie Street, Strepay said. Police have been in contact with Seeman's family. His mother is concerned, Strepay said. "We don't have anything to suggest foul play at this point," he said. "Investigators are looking at all aspects of it to determine what happened." (Amanda Dolasinski, THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, 3/27/18)

Brake Expansion

New York Air Brake announced Tuesday afternoon that it will expand its Rowan County operations. According to a Rowan Economic Development Commission news release, the expansion will create as many as 100 jobs over the next three years. The release said the company plans to invest about \$9 million "to help address growing customer demand and business growth." New York Air Brake -- which is based in Watertown, New York -- produces freight and locomotive air brake control systems. (Jessica Coates, THE SALISBURY POST, 3/27/18)

Sewer Grant

Sewer projects in Robeson County are getting an injection of more than \$2 million from the state. The Department of Environmental Quality has awarded \$1,997,500 in Community Development Block Grant money to the city of Lumberton. Parkton has been awarded a \$135,000 grant, and Fairmont a \$150,000 grant. Lumberton will use the money to address failing septic systems at Rosewood Mobile Home Park, located at 3525 E. Elizabethtown Road, City Manager Wayne Horne said Monday. City leaders became aware of the septic tank problems when residents and the park's owner brought it to their attention. City officials visited the park on multiple occasions to assess the problem, Horne said. They then developed a plan to address it. The project will cost just more than \$2 million, Horne said. The park's owner will contribute \$25,900 to cover the cost of connecting the new system to homeowners who are not below the economic poverty line. "It's a large project for us," Horne said. (T.C. Hunter, THE ROBESONIAN, 3/27/18)

Blue Ridge Spill

Spill booms, pads and underflow dams are being used on the adjacent property to prevent a gasoline spill of hundreds of gallons at Blue Ridge Energy's property on 2491 U.S. 421 S. in Boone, the cooperative confirmed on Friday. "These are precautions to protect from any potential stormwater runoff," said Blue Ridge Energy spokesperson Renee Whitener on Friday regarding the use of preventative measures on the adjacent Hollar and Greene property. Watauga County Emergency Management has been on site since Tuesday assessing the spill.

"We have been working closely with Blue Ridge Energy's safety director and STAT Incorporated," said Watauga County Emergency Management Coordinator Taylor Marsh. "Blue Ridge Energy's safety director has assured us that the spill has not left the Blue Ridge Property and a geologist is currently on site performing soil samples to confirm this. We are continuing to monitor the situation with all parties involved." Watauga Riverkeeper Andy Hill of MountainTrue said that he has been on site collecting water samples.

The cooperative announced Wednesday that an accidental spill of gasoline "between 200 and 900 gallons" occurred on the property of Blue Ridge Energy in Boone. The accidental spill occurred at the fleet fueling tank for the cooperative's service vehicles due to an overfill of the gasoline storage tank, according to Whitener. (WATAUGA DEMOCRAT, 3/23/18)

Drone Degree

The development of a new degree in drone operation at Elizabeth City State University got a green light Monday from the ECSU Board of Trustees. The action by the trustees authorized the university's academic services office to move forward with planning related to the degree. Planning for the proposed degree is still in the early stage of development. ECSU Provost Vann Newkirk told the trustees' Academic and Enrollment Services Committee at its meeting Monday morning that the proposal was to begin planning for a bachelor of science degree in unmanned aircraft systems, which would be a specialization or "niche program" within the university's aviation science program. "We felt that we could actually carve out a niche," Newkirk said.

Newkirk said currently there are only four institutions in the eastern half of the United States that offer a bachelor's degree in unmanned aircraft systems. There are a lot of programs that offer training to be a drone pilot, but they aren't embedded within bachelor's level programs, he said. The closest bachelor's degree program in the UAS field right now is in Florida, according to Newkirk. Fields where drones are being used include: law enforcement, agriculture, emergency management, wildlife resource management, marine science, infrastructure inspection, real estate, media, construction and geomatics. (Reggie Ponder, THE (Elizabeth City) DAILY ADVANCE, 3/27/18)

Advisory Board

WGU North Carolina Chancellor Catherine Truitt recently announced that nine prominent leaders in business, education, healthcare and other key growth areas for North Carolina have joined the nonprofit university's Advisory Board. WGU North Carolina officially launched in October 2017 through a partnership between the state and nationally recognized Western Governors University. Currently, there are more than 1,600 students in the state, and nearly 2,200 North Carolinians have already graduated from WGU.

The Advisory Board will provide counsel to the chancellor and address specific needs and trends to help shape the direction of the university in the state. Board members are invited to serve for three-year terms, bringing expertise that is important to North Carolina's economy and aligns with the university's four colleges and more than 60 industry-relevant, accredited bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, teacher education, and health professions, including nursing.

"According to the World Economic Forum, we are in a world where 65 percent of today's students will work in jobs that don't exist today," said former NC Gov. Bev Perdue. "WGU North Carolina is a competency-based, online model of learning that pushes the boundaries of traditional post-secondary education giving options to preparing and retooling the future workforce."

The newly appointed WGU North Carolina Advisory Board members are:

- Rick Brajer, Senior Vice President of Business Strategies, Novant, Winston-Salem
- Lew Ebert, President and CEO, NC Chamber, Raleigh
- Walter E. Gaskin, Lieutenant General, USMC (Retired), CEO, LaPorte Defense Technologies Corp. (LAPORTECH)
- Jim Gibson, Executive Vice President and COO, RTI International, Durham
- Gov. Beverly Perdue, Managing Director/Founder and Board Chair, Perdue Strategy Group / DigiLEARN Learning Institute, Chapel Hill
- Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent, NC Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh
- Jose Rodriguez, Partner in Charge and Executive Director; Audit Committee Institute, KPMG, Greensboro
- Gregg Sindors, NC State Director, TeamCFA, Charlotte
- Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent, Bladen County Schools, Elizabethtown

(NEWS RELEASE, 3/27/18)

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Wednesday, March 28

- 9 a.m. | Joint Legislative Study Committee on the Division of Local School Administrative Units (2017), 544 LOB.
- 12 p.m. | The Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (LRC)(2017), 544 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | House Select Committee on Implementation of Building Code Regulatory Reform, 1228/1327 LB.
- 1 p.m. | The Committee on Dispute Resolution Options for Homeowners, Associations and Governing Entities (LRC)(2017), 421 LOB.

Monday, April 2

- 1 p.m. | House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions, 544 LOB.

Tuesday, April 3

- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy, 544 LOB.

Wednesday, April 4

- **9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, 544 LOB.**
- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Unemployment Insurance, 544 LOB.

Thursday, April 5

- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.

Tuesday, April 10

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, 643 LOB.
- **1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, 643 LOB.**

Wednesday April 11

- 1 p.m. | The Joint Select Committee on Judicial Reform and Redistricting (2017), 643 LOB.

Thursday, April 12

- **9 a.m | The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.**

Tuesday, April 24

- **9 a.m. | The Task Force on Sentencing Reforms for Opioid Drug Convictions (2017), 544 LOB.**

Wednesday, April 25

- **10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform (2017), 643 LOB.**

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Wednesday, March 28

- 10 a.m. | The Elizabeth City State University Working Group meets, Chancellor's Conference Room of Elizabeth City State University, 1704 Weeksville Road, Elizabeth City. Contact: 919-962-4629 or jnellis@northcarolina.edu.
- 12 p.m. | The UNC Campus Security Committee Safety Conference Subcommittee meets, Conference Room B of the Spangler Center, 910 Raleigh Road in Chapel Hill. Contact: 919-962-4629 or jnellis@northcarolina.edu.

Thursday, March 29

- 1:30 p.m. | The Fayetteville State University (FSU) Board of Trustees meets, J.C. Jones Board Room, Chesnutt Library, Fayetteville.

Wednesday, April 4

- 10 a.m. | The Shrimp Bycatch Reduction Industry Workgroup meets, North Carolina History Center, Tryon Palace, 529 S. Front St., New Bern.

Friday, April 6

- 10:30 a.m. | The state Division of Employment Security holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security, Room A-502, 700 Wade Ave., Raleigh.

Monday, April 16

- 5 p.m. | The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality holds a information session on the proposed plan to use North Carolina's share of a national settlement with Volkswagen, Lenoir Community College, Bullock Building, Room 150, Kinston.

Tuesday, April 17

- 1 p.m. | The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality holds a information session on the proposed plan to use North Carolina's share of a national settlement with Volkswagen, Triangle J Council of Governments, 4307 Emperor Blvd., Suite 110, Durham.

Wednesday, April 18

- 10 a.m. | The NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission meets, 400 East Tryon Road, Raleigh.

Friday, April 20

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality holds a information session on the proposed plan to use North Carolina's share of a national settlement with Volkswagen, Cape Fear Community College, Union Station, Room 512, 502 N. Front St., Wilmington.

Tuesday, April 24

- 9 a.m. | The state Appraisal Board holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, North Carolina Appraisal Board, 5830 Six Forks Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, April 26

- **9 a.m. | North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Headquarters Conference Room, 1751 Varsity Dr., NCSU Centennial Campus, Raleigh.**

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill **(remote meeting locations in RED)**
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Friday, May 25

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina
More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Monday, April 2

- Staff Conference

Wednesday, April 4

- 10 a.m. | E-2 Sub 1157 ...Complaint of Corrine Mulholland, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Thursday, April 5

- 10 a.m. | T-4478 Sub 10 ...Show Cause for Failure to Maintain Insurance, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.
- 10:30 a.m. | T-4636 Sub 3 ...Show Cause, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, April 9

- Staff Conference

Wednesday, April 11

- 10 a.m. | EMP-93 Sub 0 ...Application for CPCN to Construct a 74 MW Electric Merchant Plant and Registration of Facility Located at Terra Ceia Rd., Beaufort, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, April 16

- Staff Conference

Monday, April 23

- Staff Conference

Monday, April 30

- Staff Conference

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Wednesday, March 28

- **5:45 p.m. | Gov. Roy Cooper to recognize Women's History Month Executive Residence, 200 N. Blount St., Raleigh.**

Monday, June 11

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor begins, local county Board of Elections.

Monday, June 18

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for all Judicial Offices begins, N.C. State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement, 430 N Salisbury St, Raleigh.

Friday, June 29

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for all Judicial Offices ends, N.C. State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement, 430 N Salisbury St, Raleigh.

Friday, July 6

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor ends, local county Board of Elections.

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